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CITY OF NEW BRITAIN RECEIVES $650,000 GRANT TO AID IN OPIOID TASK FORCE

NEW BRITAIN—The City of New Britain has been awarded a $650,000 Overdose Data to Action grant from the Center for Disease Control to aid individuals struggling with opioid addiction and treatment by leveraging data to better understand and respond to the epidemic in the community.

The funding will be used to connect caregivers with a central registry with the goal to narrow the time from a Narcan administration to getting the individual into a recovery program. Additionally, the funding will be used to supplement the work that the Mayor’s Opioid Task Force is undertaking, which aims to reduce the number of opioid and heroin overdose deaths by 50 percent by next year.

“This funding will go a long way in continuing and expanding the efforts we are making through the Opioid Task Force and H.O.P.E initiative,” said Mayor Erin Stewart, referring to the Heroin, Opioid, Prevention, and Education initiative. “When we have a better understanding of where overdoses are occurring, we can better target our strategies to save lives.”

Community partners and stakeholders will participate in cross-functioning training and access and analyze existing data to help target prevention strategies and harm reduction. Additionally, the grant funding will be used to establish a mobile response team in which a peer recovery specialist will conduct an in home follow up wellness check within 72 hours of a reported/identified overdose. This specialist will aid in referral, treatment, and recovery.

“This grant allows our community to leverage the activities of its EMS system with recovery partners throughout the community to help achieve the Task Force’s goal of reducing opioid deaths by 50 percent in 2021,” said Bruce Baxter, CEO of New Britain EMS. “Paramedics and EMTs are often a patient’s first point of contact with the healthcare system when they overdose. While the care they provide in these situations is lifesaving, they also have the ability to navigate patients and their families to additional sources of follow up care through the network of community recovery partners this grant will formalize.”

The City will partner with several contractors to implement the action items. These partners include Beyond Lucid Technologies, the National Council for Behavioral Health, New Britain Emergency Medical Services, Community Mental Health Affiliates, and TechServ Corporation.

David Huck
860-826-3302
dhuck@newbritainct.gov

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